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THE INTELLIGENCER.

WHEELING, MAY 2, 1900.

Bryan's Imperial Ukase.

The Sound Money League was wise in

refusing to disband on the passage of

the gold standard law. Some members

of the organization thought with the

passage of that act the usefulness of

the league was closed. Others, how-

ever, notably John K. Cowan, the pres-

ident of the league, did not agree with

that view of the situation. They argued

that as long as Bryan was a presidential

possibility the business and financial

interests of the country were menaced.

They were eminently right.

If any of those Democrats who gaged

on the Chicago platform think that free

silver is to be subordinated as an issue

this year, or that so much as a punctu-

ation mark is to be changed in the ob-

noxious declaration of those unprincipled

principles, let them speedily unde-

ceive themselves. At Port Huron, Mich-

igan, day before yesterday, Mr. Bryan

gave out a statement to the representa-

tive of the New York Journal. That

statement reads as follows:

The whole party has been waiting for

weeks for the leader to give a signal

through the Journal. What he said, he did

deliberately, thoughtfully, slowly, with

a full realization of the political effect

his words would have. I asked him to

make a definite statement on the money

plank of the platform that would clear

the atmosphere. I have never seen him

more earnest, more full of profound real-

ization of the political condition confront-

ing him, and lay stress on this point in

order to convey clearly the fact that what

Mr. Bryan said to me to-day represents

his unchangeable purpose.

"Will the Chicago platform be reaffirmed

at Kansas City?" he asked.

"The Chicago platform will be reaffirmed,"

he answered.

"Will any change be made in the Chicago

platform to connect the Democrats with

the Chicago platform?" he asked.

"No. The Democrats who are coming

back must not expect a single departure

from the platform taken by the party in

1896. First, because the position taken

was right; second, it would not be wise

to alienate those who were with us in 1896

in order to please those who were against

us.

The gold Democrats who come back

can defend their coming on two grounds.

They can say that the platform taken

in 1896 was right and that they were

right and that they were wrong, or they

can say that because of the new questions

which have arisen, and which they are

now willing to accept the platform as a whole."

How do you like that, you sound

money, self-respecting Democrats, who

would have none of Bryan in 1896, when

he was not half so vicious in his ten-

dencies as he is to-day. Talk about

imperialism! If these words, solemnly

uttered and carefully weighed, are not

the ultimatum of an emperor, with the

suggestion, "I alone am the party, you

are my subjects, my vassals," pray,

then, what meaning do they convey?

Here, also, a trust and monopoly are

symbolized in Bryan, who arrogantly

denies the right of any other person to

manufacture planks for the Democratic

platform. This is a very painful politi-

cal spectacle, and incongruous as it is

it is lamentably true. The closing ut-

terances of his interview are significant:

"Mr. Bryan," I said, "the passage of the

currency bill and its signature by Mr. McKin-

ley takes it out of the power of the

next President to change the status of

gold or silver. As the senate will have a

two-thirds majority for five years it is

impossible for any President or any party

to establish the free coinage of silver dur-

ing the next four years. The currency

question, therefore, is out of the realm of

practical politics for the present, or at

least out of the sphere of either legislative

or executive action. Why should a de-

bate be reintroduced into the Demo-

cratic platform?"

"In the first place," said Mr. Bryan, "I

do not admit that the Democratic platform

beyond all hope of change. We are cer-

tain to make large gains in the east if we

carry the country. Whether we shall se-

cure enough to give us a majority in the

senate depends on the size of the victory.

If the gold Democrats really believe that

it is impossible to gain the senate then

they need not worry about the silver plank.

They ought not to ask the party to aban-

don the silver plank on the ground that it

cannot be carried out. In other words,

they should not ask us to give up all hope

of free silver so long as they are afraid of

it."

Will a specific declaration for the free

coinage of silver and gold in a ratio of 16

to 1 be put in the platform?"

"Certainly. To drop the ratio would be

equal to dropping the question because no

one would believe the party sincere in its

advocacy of bi-metallicism. If we abandoned

the only ratio advocated by any consider-

able number of people."

That is plain enough. It is so cat-

egorically explicit that he who runs may

read, and a wayfarer man, though an

imbecile, need not err in understanding.

The ears of the Democratic donkey

seem to lengthen with the passing

years. Under these circumstances will

the sound money Democrats join the

fanatical following of Bryan in singing

"I'd Leave My Happy Home for You?"

How can they?

Democratic National Chairman Jones

after stating the nomination of Bryan

by the Populists previous to the Kansas

City convention, would in no manner

embarrass the Democrats, admit "I

indeed, I see no objection, from a Demo-

cratic point of view, to the nomination

of Mr. Bryan by all the national con-

ventions to be held this year. Even if

he were nominated at the Philadelphia

convention it would not embarrass us.

It would be a good thing, I think, if all

people should agree on him." It is

plain to be seen that this assumed lev-

ity conceals an aching heart. Senator

Jones knows that Bryan cannot be

elected.

Great Days for Methodism.

The twenty-fifth quadrennial General

Conference of the Methodist Episcopal

church meets in the great Auditorium

in Chicago to-day, and will remain in

session throughout the month of May.

It is one of the most important events

in the history of this influential denom-

ination.

The arrangements for this great gather-

ing are on a colossal scale. The audi-

torium's seating capacity is 6,000. Be-

sides this Stadler Hall, the Auditor-

ium Recital Hall, University Hall and

seven other halls for the use of the

committees and anniversaries have been

engaged, and a fine suite of rooms di-

rectly connected with Auditorium Hall,

has been secured as headquarters for

various church societies. Private boxes

have already been taken at the Audi-

torium netting \$8,000. A "Daily Chris-

tian Advocate" will be published by

three ministers engaged by the two

book concerns at New York and Cin-

cinnati.

The influence of Methodism is, per-

haps, more widely distributed in this

country than any other Protestant de-

nomination. On last Sunday Rev. Dr.

Chilcote, one of the most prominent

Presbyterian divines of Chicago, deliv-

ered a eulogy on the founder of the

church, John Wesley, paying the follow-

ing tribute to Methodism:

When Wesley died his adherents num-

bered 10,000, and to-day he has a constitu-

ency of 5,000,000 in this country alone—

one-third of our population thus depend-

ing on the Methodist church for religious

instruction, and one-half of our Sunday

schools are being gathered in Methodist

episcopal Sunday schools. Without any

exception Methodism is the most wonder-

ful and far-reaching religious movement

since the time of the reformation. It is the

Protestant church of all others which

touches the poor and the lowly. In this

country it multiplied the places of wor-

ship at the rate of two every day in the

year, while its efficiency and economy in

church administration are a standing

rebuttal to all the rest of us.

Interest in the General Conference

will center around the deliberations on

the proposed changes in church govern-

ment. Happily for Methodism there are

no disagreements as to the creed. The

church has been singularly free from

all contentions on this point, for the

reason that the creedal confessions in a

few words simply teaches "believe in the

Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be

saved." There is really more religion

and less theology in the Methodist

church than any other denomination,

and this is undoubtedly one of the

elements of its greatness. Of the many

questions that will come before this

legislative body of interest to the mem-

bers of the church and the general public,

the first to be decided will be the admis-

sion or exclusion of the 151 provisional

lay delegates. All the constitutional steps

have been taken for their admission ex-

cept one. Two-thirds of the regular

delegates of this General Conference must

vote to admit them. There was never

a doubt about securing this last vote

for their admission until it was learned

that the Illinois conference had elected

one woman as a provisional delegate,

Mrs. M. Y. McMahon. Now to vote to

admit the provisional delegates would

be to pass on the much-mooted woman

question, which has agitated the entire

church for a number of years, but

which was never finally settled.

Another question that will receive

much attention is the time limit in the

pastorate. The sentiment against this

present law is largely on the increase.

One other question likely to interest

the general public more than any other

is the proposed legislation on the

amusement question. The general rule

of the church on amusements which was

embodied in its constitution from the

beginning, forbids Methodists "taking

such diversions as cannot be used in the

name of the Lord Jesus."

Attempts will be made to remove the

prohibition that now obtains on dan-

cing, card playing and attendance on

theatres. The advocates of this change

in the discipline argue that the inhibi-

tion might as well be expunged, as it is

virtually a dead letter, and that it

would be wisdom on the part of the

church to leave these matters to the

"court of conscience." We do not think

the conference will agree to allow the

communicants of the church to take up

their residence on Easy street. It

would be a radical change that would,

perhaps, open the door for a liberalism

inconsistent with the tenets.

Other matters of moment will be the

election of bishops and twenty-five or

thirty other general church officers. The

nearly 300,000 colored members of the

church are clamoring for a colored

bishop. China and Japan think they

are as much entitled to missionary

bishops as India and Africa. There

will perhaps be from three to five bish-

ops elected.

In view of the importance of this

conference the Intelligencer takes pleasure

in announcing to its Methodist readers

that it has arranged for the services of

a capable correspondent who will keep

them fully informed of the deliberations

of the body.

Hanna and Quay.

The action of Senator Hanna in op-

posing the seating of Senator Quay on

the credentials he held has been made

much of by the Democratic press. The

papers of that issueless party have col-